

In the claims:

Please amend claim 5 so that the text of the amended claim reads as follows:

5. (Twice Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence that:

- B1
- (a) encodes the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:7; and
 - (b) hybridizes to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:6 or the complement thereof under highly stringent conditions of 0.5 M NaHPO₄, 7% sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS) and 1 mM EDTA at 65°C and washing in 0.1x SSC/0.1%SDS at 68°C.

RESPONSE

I. Status of the Claims

No claims have been cancelled. Claim 5 has been amended. No new claims have been added.

Claims 1 and 5-9 are therefore presently pending in the case. For the convenience of the Examiner, a clean copy of the pending claims is attached hereto as **Exhibit A**. In compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(1)(ii), a marked up copy of the original claims is attached hereto as **Exhibit B**.

II. Support for the Amendments and Newly Added Claims

The specification has been amended to include a new title that is more descriptive of the invention to which the claims are directed. Support for the new title can be found in the original title, and throughout the specification and claims as originally filed. In compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(b)(1)(iii), a marked up copy of the original title is attached hereto as **Exhibit C**.

Claim 5 has been amended to further clarify the claim, and to recite specific highly stringent hybridization conditions. Support for this claim can be found throughout the specification as originally filed, with particular support being found at least at page 4, lines 24-35.

It will be understood that no new matter is included within the new title, or the amended claim.

III. Title

The Action first objects to the title of the application based on the term "novel". Applicants

Exhibit A

Clean Version of The Pending Claims in U.S. Patent Application Ser. No. 09/918,359

1. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:7.

5. (Twice Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence that:

- (a) encodes the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:7; and
- (b) hybridizes to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:6 or the complement thereof under highly stringent conditions of 0.5 M NaHPO₄, 7% sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS) and 1 mM EDTA at 65°C and washing in 0.1x SSC/0.1%SDS at 68°C.

6. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:6.

7. A recombinant expression vector comprising the isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 1.

8. The recombinant expression vector of claim 7, wherein said isolated nucleic acid molecule comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:6.

9. A host cell comprising the recombinant expression vector of claim 7.